

No claims have been added, canceled or amended. Hence, this listing of claims is provided merely for the convenience of the Examiner:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method of generating an information disclosure statement ("IDS"), the method comprising:
 - providing, at a client system, a search interface to allow a user to search one or more data sources for potential prior art references;
 - receiving, at the client system, input from a user indicating that the user has identified an electronic document as a prior art reference, the electronic document comprising a set of IDS information for identifying the prior art reference to an official patent office;
 - in response to the input, transmitting a signal from the client system, the signal indicating that the user has identified the prior art reference;
 - receiving the signal at a server system comprising a database;
 - in response to the signal, accessing the electronic document, with the server system, at a first data source external to the server system;
 - loading into the database at least a portion of the electronic document, wherein the at least a portion of the electronic document comprises the IDS information;
 - accessing an electronic IDS corresponding to a patent application; and
 - adding the IDS information to the electronic IDS via an automated process at the server system;
 - wherein the electronic document includes information corresponding to a plurality of fields in the electronic IDS, and wherein adding the IDS information to the electronic IDS comprises extracting the IDS information, via the automated process at the server system, from the electronic document and storing the IDS information, via the automated process and in a format specified by the official patent office, in a corresponding plurality of fields in the electronic IDS.

2. (Canceled)
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
storing a reference link to the electronic document in a reference table;
storing an identifier corresponding to a patent case in a case number table; and
associating the reference link in the reference table to the identifier in the case
number table.
4. – 6. (Canceled)
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing a
create prompt for the user to provide the input.
8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the create prompt comprises an
electronic button.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the first data source is
coupled to the remote server system over a computer network.
10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising providing
access to the electronic IDS to multiple users over a network.
11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising electronically
transmitting the electronic IDS to a patent office.
12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
receiving at the server system a second signal indicating that a patent application
corresponding to the electronic information disclosure statement is being electronically filed in a
patent office; and
electronically transmitting the IDS to the patent office contemporaneously with
the patent application.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic document is an electronic version of a United States Patent.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic document is an electronic version of a foreign patent document.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic document is an electronic version of a publication.

16. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method of generating an information disclosure statement ("IDS"), the method comprising:

- providing, at a client system, a search interface to allow a user to search one or more data sources for potential prior art references;

- receiving, at the client system, input from a user indicating that the user has identified an electronic document as a prior art reference, the electronic document comprising a set of IDS information for identifying the prior art reference to an official patent office;

- in response to the input, transmitting a signal from the client system, the signal indicating that the user has identified the prior art reference;

- receiving the signal at a server system comprising a database;

- in response to the signal, accessing the electronic document, with the server system, at a first data source external to the server system;

- loading into the database at least a portion of the electronic document, wherein the at least a portion of the electronic document comprises the IDS information;

- storing, in a reference table, a reference link to the electronic document;

- associating, in a case table, the reference link with an identifier corresponding to a first case; and

- adding the IDS information to an electronic IDS for the first_case via an automated process at the server system;

- wherein the electronic document includes information corresponding to a plurality of fields in the electronic IDS, and wherein adding the IDS information to the electronic IDS

comprises extracting the IDS information, via the automated process at the server system, from the electronic document and storing the IDS information, via the automated process and in a format specified by the official patent office, in a corresponding plurality of fields in the electronic IDS.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 further comprising:

storing one or more cited reference links to a plurality of electronic documents in a cited references table, the cited reference links indicating that the plurality of electronic documents that have been cited to a patent office,

wherein the IDS information is added to the electronic IDS only if the electronic IDS has a reference link in the reference table but does not have a cited reference link in the cited reference table.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the electronic document is an electronic version of a United States Patent.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the electronic document is an electronic version of a foreign patent document.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the electronic document is an electronic version of a publication.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein accessing an electronic IDS comprises creating the electronic IDS.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein adding the IDS information to the electronic IDS comprises storing in the electronic IDS a pointer to the IDS information.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein adding the IDS information to the electronic IDS comprises storing in the electronic IDS a pointer to the IDS information.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising creating the electronic IDS.

27. (Previously Presented) A server computer system for generating an electronic information disclosure statement ("IDS") the computer system comprising:

a processor;

a database in communication with the processor; and

a computer readable medium in communication with the processor, the computer readable medium having a set of instructions executable by the processor, the set of instructions comprising:

(i) instructions to receive, at the server computer system, a signal from a client system, the signal indicating that a user has identified an electronic document as a prior art reference, the electronic document comprising a set of IDS information for identifying the prior art reference to an official patent office;

(ii) instructions to access, in response to the signal, the electronic document at a data source external to the server computer system;

(iii) instructions to load into the database at least a portion of the electronic document, wherein the at least a portion of the electronic document comprises the IDS information;

(iv) instructions to access an electronic IDS corresponding to a patent application; and

(v) instructions to add the IDS information to the electronic IDS via an automated process at the server computer system;

wherein the electronic document includes information corresponding to a plurality of fields in the electronic IDS, and wherein the instructions to add the IDS information to the electronic IDS comprise instructions to extract the IDS information, via the automated

process at the server system, from the electronic document and instructions to store the IDS information, via the automated process and in a format specified by the official patent office, in a corresponding plurality of fields in the electronic IDS.

28. (Previously Presented) A server computer system for generating an electronic information disclosure statement ("IDS") the computer system comprising:

a processor;

a database in communication with the processor; and

a computer readable medium in communication with the processor, the computer readable medium having a set of instructions executable by the processor, the set of instructions comprising:

(i) instructions to receive, at the server computer system, a signal from a client system, the signal indicating that a user has identified an electronic document as a prior art reference, the electronic document comprising a set of IDS information for identifying the prior art reference to an official patent office;

(ii) instructions to access, in response to the signal, the electronic document at a data source external to the computer system;

(iii) instructions to load into the database at least a portion of the electronic document, wherein the at least a portion of the electronic document comprises the IDS information;

(iv) instructions to store, in a reference table, a reference link to the electronic document;

(v) instructions to associate, in a case table, the reference link with an identifier corresponding to a first case; and

(vi) instructions to add the IDS information for the electronic document to an electronic IDS for the first case via an automated process at the server system;

wherein the electronic document includes information corresponding to a plurality of fields in the electronic IDS, and wherein the instructions to add the IDS information to the electronic IDS comprise instructions to extract the IDS information, via the automated

process at the server system, from the electronic document and instructions to store the IDS information, via the automated process and in a format specified by the official patent office, in a corresponding plurality of fields in the electronic IDS.

29. (Previously Presented) A computer program, stored on a computer readable memory, for generating an electronic information disclosure statement ("IDS"), the computer program comprising a set of instructions executable by one or more processors in a server computer system, the set of instructions comprising:

- instructions to receive, at the server computer system, a signal from a client system, the signal indicating that a user has identified an electronic document as a prior art reference, the electronic document comprising a set of IDS information for identifying the prior art reference to an official patent office;

- instructions to access, in response to the signal, the electronic document at a data source external to the server computer system;

- instructions to load into the database at least a portion of the electronic document, wherein the at least a portion of the electronic document comprises the IDS information;

- instructions to access an electronic IDS corresponding to a patent application; and

- instructions to add the IDS information to the electronic_IDS via an automated process at the server computer system;

- wherein the electronic document includes information corresponding to a plurality of fields in the electronic IDS, and wherein the instructions to add the IDS information to the electronic IDS comprise instructions to extract the IDS information, via the automated process at the server system, from the electronic document and instructions to store the IDS information, via the automated process and in a format specified by the official patent office, in a corresponding plurality of fields in the electronic IDS.

30. (Previously presented) A computer program, stored on a computer readable memory, for generating an electronic information disclosure statement ("IDS"), the computer program comprising a set of instructions executable by one or more processors in a server computer system, the set of instructions comprising:

instructions to receive, at the server computer system, a signal from a client system, the signal indicating that a user has identified an electronic document as a prior art reference, the electronic document comprising a set of IDS information for identifying the prior art reference to an official patent office;

instructions to access, in response to the signal, the electronic document at a data source external to the computer system;

instructions to load into the database at least a portion of the electronic document, wherein the at least a portion of the electronic document comprises the IDS information;

instructions to store, in a reference table, a reference link to the electronic document;

instructions to associate, in a case table, the reference link with an identifier corresponding to a first case; and

instructions to add the IDS information for the electronic document to an electronic IDS for the first case via an automated process at the server system;

wherein the electronic document includes information corresponding to a plurality of fields in the electronic IDS, and wherein the instructions to add the IDS information to the electronic IDS comprise instructions to extract the IDS information, via the automated process at the server system, from the electronic document and instructions to store the IDS information, via the automated process and in a format specified by the official patent office, in a corresponding plurality of fields in the electronic IDS.